

city college news

Our nursing program named best in Ontario

There is no better nursing program than ours in the eyes of the largest professional nurses' association in the province.

The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) recently named George Brown College Nursing Education Program of the Year for 2004.

"We take great pride in this award because it not only comes from the association but it also says that we are seen as the centre of professional nursing education excellence," said Rivie Seaberg, Director of Nursing.

The RNAO is a high-profile organization that represents more than 20,000 registered nurses across the province.

On behalf of its members, it lobbies governments and hospital administration, organizes media campaigns, conducts research projects, provides liability protection and insurance and continuing education opportunities.

The association established the award this year to honour and recognize schools that promote and participate in its activities, said David McChesney, project co-ordinator of RNAO membership services.

"This award demonstrates how students, staff and faculty have worked together in promoting professionalism," he said.

"Hopefully other schools will take a look at George Brown and ask, 'what are they doing and how we can do it too?'"

To be eligible for the award, the school must be able to demonstrate how it promotes the RNAO in its program and curriculum.

A team of nursing faculty members and students submitted a nomination package on the George Brown site of the collaborative program run jointly with Ryerson and Centennial College.

GBC's program was given the award based on a number of things that they do including setting aside funds to sponsor students who want to join the RNAO, participating in staff development symposiums and workshops sponsored by the association, holding corporate membership with the RNAO's Centre for Professional Nursing Excellence and co-sponsoring the



RNAO's Nursing Education Dialogue series.

"Overall, they've demonstrated that faculty and students are involved with and have been effective in promoting the RNAO," said McChesney.

While the association represents registered nurses, one cannot ignore the contribution that all nursing faculty have made, said Seaberg.

"We all take great pride in this award."

The staff, students and faculty of BScN are all smiles after winning the RNAO Nursing Education Program of the Year award. Front row from left to right: Charlene Wood, Heather Blackford, Rivie Seaberg, Kevin Zizzo, Julie Gaudet, Michael Garneau, Daniel Cahusas, Jodie Boltuc, Josie Loblaw and Lorie Shekter-Wolson; back row from left to right: Rubina Abramson, Shari Cherney, Frances Ross, Dana Shpak, Hilde Zimmer, Linda McCrory, Jojo Hoy, Sue Phillips, Allison Patrick and Susan Ord-Lawson.

We host ACAATO in 2005

George Brown College will have a premier chance to show off its students, staff and facilities as the host of next year's province-wide college conference and Premier's Awards.

The Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario's (ACAATO) conference will bring about 400 college presidents, senior administrators and board members from all over Ontario to our campuses next February.

They will attend workshops, seminars and discussion panels on the issues facing post-secondary institutions and their students.

"A key reason for the conference is to talk about common issues and to come up with good ideas that you can take home with you," said Stuart Watson, communications director at ACAATO.

Common points of discussion will include advocacy and how it can be undertaken, system-wide initiatives, program approval and leadership and development, said Watson. Participants are also invited to attend ACAATO's annual general meeting, the ACAATO Awards luncheon, an evening event put on by the host college and the Premier's Awards dinner to wrap up the intensive two-day conference.

A lot of planning will go into accommodating such a large group in a comfortable yet exciting and innovative setting, hosting the Premier's Award ceremony, creating a program for the participants' spouses and making sure that the very best of George Brown College is front-and-centre.

"It really is an opportunity to showcase what makes that college special," Watson said. "Many consider it an honour to host the conference."

Premier's Award nominations honour our great grads



George Brown President Anne Sado (middle) mingles with this year's Premier's Awards nominees. From top left: Shaun Navazesh, Dr. Reg Murphy, Tracy Rogers and Christine Cushing. Adonis Huggins was not present at the ceremony.

Six George Brown graduates proudly represented the college at this year's Premier's Awards ceremony, hosted by St. Lawrence College.

Christine Cushing, Adonis Huggins, Dr. Reg Murphy, Shaun Navazesh and Tracy Rogers were recognized with nominee awards presented to them by the Hon. Mary Anne Chambers, Ontario's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities.

The Premier's Awards were established in 1992 to honour and recognize the social and economic contributions of college graduates in six areas: Creative Arts and Design, Community Services, Business, Health Sciences, Technology and Recent Graduate.

It has been the tradition that the awards presentation is held on the last evening of the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario's (ACAATO) conference.

George Brown graduates are always grateful for the hands-on skills and practical knowledge that enabled them to bring their entrepreneurial ideas to life, said Mary Kennard, Manager of Alumni Affairs.

Here is a quick look at this year's nominees:

Christine Cushing

*Program: Food and Beverage Management
Graduated in: 1986*

Category: Business

*Day jobs: Host of Christine Cushing Live on Foodnetwork Canada; freelance chef, caterer, cooking teacher and food stylist
Cushing left university to get hands-on, practical training in the culinary industry at George Brown where she laid down a strong foundation for the rest of her career that continues to grow.*

Adonis Huggins

*Program: Community Worker
Graduated in: 1987*

Category: Community Services

Day jobs: Co-ordinator of Regent Park Focus Community Coalition Against Substance Abuse; creator of the Media Arts Program which teaches youth to use media technology to deal with issues facing them and their community.

Huggins said he went into the Community Worker program thinking he could make a difference in an individual's life and came out believing he could make a difference in the life of a community.

Dr. A. Reg Murphy

*Program: Residential Construction Management
Graduated in: 1978*

Category: Technology

Day jobs: Archaeologist for Nelson's Dockyard National Park in Antigua; restoration consultant to the Governor General of Antigua

Murphy credits George Brown for the practical skills and knowledge that enabled him to start his own construction company and for instilling a desire to learn that led to a PhD in Philosophy, majoring in Archaeology.

Shaun Navazesh

*Program: Culinary Management
Graduated in: 1990*

*Category: Creative Arts and Design
Day jobs: Founder, owner and president of ShaSha Bread Company, an artisan bakery; creator of the Artisan Bakers Quality Alliance*

Navazesh was interested in culinary arts before he enrolled at George Brown but it wasn't until a teacher encouraged him to enter a food competition that he discovered his passion for it.

Tracy Rogers

*Program: Child and Youth Worker
Graduated in: 1999*

Category: Recent Graduate

Day jobs: York Region Co-ordinator for Youth Assisting Youth, a peer mentoring program for young people with emotional, behavioural, cultural or social difficulties; Facilitator for Rehabilitation Network Canada Employment Resource Centre.

Rogers learned an important lesson at George Brown: she first had to help herself before she could help others. The Child and Youth Worker program encouraged and supported her own personal growth.



George Brown grad Christine Cushing receives her Premier's Award nominee plaque from the Hon. Mary Anne Chambers, Ontario's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Health sciences heading towards multidisciplinary training

Imagine one day while getting your teeth cleaned, your dental hygienist notices something odd about your breathing. He or she says that you may have asthma and suggests you get it checked out.

When your appointment is over, you are directed to another part of the clinic where you visit with a nurse. He or she goes to the computer to pull up your dental and medical records and then initiates a number of tests to find out if your dental hygienist's suspicions were in fact true.

In a few weeks it is confirmed that you do have a mild form of asthma and you then receive the appropriate treatment from your doctor.

All of this would be made possible by a health-care system in which different professionals have been educated and trained in a multidisciplinary way, have access to all your health records and know how to work as a team to enhance your overall well-being.

This health-care model has been strongly endorsed by Roy Romanow and Senator Michael Kirby in their high profile reports to replace the current system in which your dentist does not communicate or share information with your doctor.

The Centre for Health Sciences and the Centre for Nursing are joining the push towards this new vision of health care by launching a health sciences repositioning project.

Through this multi-year project, they want to create a unique educational experience for students from different health-care disciplines to learn how to work together,



Dental hygiene students of the future will learn and work alongside other health sciences students in a multidisciplinary model now being built by the health sciences repositioning team.

said Doug Stulla, Chair of the Centre for Health Sciences.

Not only is this integrated health-care system being endorsed by leaders in the field, George Brown students are also looking forward to this kind of change, said Rivie Seaberg, Director of the Centre for Nursing.

"The students that we've talked to about this are saying, 'we want more opportunities to understand ourselves in relation to others and we want innovative settings to prepare us for work after graduation,'" she said.

So for the next year, the health sciences repositioning team will be working out a detailed plan that will likely include two major components.

The first will be opportunities, either in the form of workshops, symposiums or classes, for all health sciences students to learn about big-picture issues like understanding the health-care system or health informatics, said Lorie Shekter-Wolfsen,

Dean of the Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences.

The second part of the project will be to establish a full-service clinic where all health sciences students will learn through hands-on training in a team-based setting as they provide services to other students and to the community.

Neither of these components are new to George Brown as major centre-wide symposiums have been held two years in a row and dental clinics, fitness testing, hearing testing and flu clinics are already being offered.

The repositioning team is looking to expand and improve upon what currently exists at the college.

"We want to create a microcosm of an ideal health-care model and make it a training lab," Shekter-Wolfsen said. "Under this model, our graduates will come out of their respective areas with a better understanding of the whole picture of health care."

Need time off work to get work done?

Do you ever feel like there is never enough time to research and develop your curriculum between giving lectures, marking papers, consulting with fellow faculty members and attending college events?

Well, here is your chance to take this summer session off — sign up for Secondment 2004 and turn your undivided attention to enriching your students' learning experience.

"This time enables faculty to focus on (development) projects without being distracted by other teaching commitments," said Shirley Lesch, LIAD's Instructional Designer.

LIAD and Staff Development are working together to host this year's Secondment and are now accepting project proposals from George Brown faculty members who wish to participate in this unique curriculum development activity.

In their proposals, teaching staff can focus on a number of topics including how to integrate educational technology into the classroom or how to internationalize their curriculum, said Lesch.

About 20 faculty members will be chosen to take part in workshops, coaching sessions, discussions groups and conferences on and off campus for seven weeks starting in May. Sessional instructors will take over for those who normally teach during the summer semester, said Lesch.

For more information on Secondment or to submit a proposal, please contact Cal Shaw at (416) 415-2285 or cshaw@gbrownnc.on.ca

Around George Brown

March 22 kicked off the 12th annual Labour Fair at George Brown College with some exciting events and interesting guest lectures. Among the long list of speakers were Benjamin Santamaria, Ochoa, George Brown's lecturer-in-residence, Wayne Samuelson, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour, John Cartwright, President of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council and Jack Layton, federal leader of the NDP. Pretty, Porky and Pissed Off, a multi-media performance troupe, put on a unique show about body image and equity for more than 100 students, faculty and staff at St. James. The lobby at St. James campus was transformed into a mini museum with an exhibit entitled "...and still I rise". The Ontario Workers Arts and Heritage Centre in Hamilton developed the display to depict the history of African Canadian workers in Ontario. Log onto <http://www.gbrownnc.on.ca/events.html> for photos from these and more Labour Fair events. Full coverage of the fair can be found in the next issue of City College News.



The members of performance troupe Pretty, Porky and Pissed Off do the opening dance of their latest show *Big Judy* as part of George Brown's Labour Fair and the Student Association's SisterFest Week.



Jack Layton, leader of the federal NDP, wraps up a busy Labour Fair week with a guest lecture on restoring Canada's social safety net.

On March 25, the Co-operative Education staff hosted a luncheon at Siegfried's for employers who have provided placement opportunities to students in the Faculty of Business and Creative Arts. Co-op officer Doreen Pashkoff said they wanted to thank them for supporting George Brown's programs and students in an informal setting with a personal touch. Guests including employers from Bank of Montreal, CoEd Communications, Cardinal Health and World Wrestling Entertainment chatted with faculty members and college staff over a delicious lunch prepared and served by Chef School students. Pashkoff said the lunch was also an opportunity to bring community partners together into the college.



Maureen Loweth, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Creative Arts, welcomes co-op employers, faculty members and college staff to the Co-operative Employers luncheon at Siegfried's.

Upcoming events

Winter/Spring 2004 Deaf Presentations April 8 (3:30 to 5 p.m.) The Deaf Upgrading Program is hosting a presentation by Gary Malkowski, from the Canadian Hearing Society, called "Deaf Ontario Now: A Celebration of the Deaf Education Movement." It will be presented in American Sign Language but an English interpreter can be requested. For more information, please contact Deanne Bradley at (416) 415-2651 TTY or Karen Walker at (416) 415-5000, ext. 0535.

Annual Athletic Awards Dinner April 8 (6 p.m.)

The college honours and recognizes the contribution that our athletes, coaches and staff make to athletics, recreation and student life at George Brown. Awards will be given to outstanding players from each sport as well as awards for male and female athletes of the year. To check availability of tickets, please contact the Department of Athletics and Recreation at (416) 415-5000, ext. 2176.

Flux Jewelry Art Show April 8 to May 2

The Jewelry Arts graduating class will showcase their work at Harbourfront's Bounty Fine Canadian Craft. A reception and special awards ceremony will kick off the exhibit on April 8 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Martha Glenn at (416) 415-5000, ext. 6105.

George Brown Theatre presents Peer Gynt April 13 to 24

Peer Gynt is a rarely performed poetic masterpiece in which the main character travels the world after his dreams and ambitions from Norway to Morocco and back again. But it is not until he is confronted by death that he realizes the true meaning of life. Daryl Cloran (Shaw Festival) directs with Set and Lighting design by Glenn Davidson and Costumes designed by Dana Osbourne. For tickets, please call (416) 415-5000, ext. 2167.

Signatures 2004 April 22 (7:30 p.m.)

The Fashion Techniques and Design Program's year-end fashion show is set to burn up the runway at Convocation Hall. For more information and group rates, please call (416) 415-5000, ext. 4840.

Child Care Cooks' Conference April 22 to 23

The Centre for Early Childhood Development and the Centre for Hospitality and Tourism Management host the fourth annual Child Care Cooks' Conference — the largest event of its kind in Canada. Child care cooks from around the GTA will gather for two-days of workshops, cooking lessons with professional chefs and vendor displays. For more information or to register, please contact Diane Bergeron at (416) 415-5000, ext. 2314 or bergeron@gbrownnc.on.ca.

Best of Show Design Exhibit April 27 to May 6

The best of this year's School of Design graduates will be on display at the Design Exchange. A reception and awards ceremony begins at 5 p.m. on April 27. For more information, please call Alice Lee at (416) 415-5000, ext. 2103.

If you attend college events...

...please remember to use the Safe Walk program to ensure a safe arrival at your car, streetcar stop or subway station. Co-ed escort teams depart from the lobbies of 200 King St., 300 Adelaide St. and the Davenport Road exit at Casa Loma every 15 minutes from 6:30 p.m. to 11:15 p.m. For a schedule or more information, call (416) 415-5000, ext. 2721 or log onto <http://www.gbrownnc.on.ca/orientation/safewalk.html>.

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